

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NATIONAL COOPERATIVE FISHERY UNIT PROGRAM STARTS

A nationwide sport fishery training and research program has just been launched with the establishment of the first Cooperative Fishery Unit at Utah State University, the Department of the Interior announced today. The new program will stress training of fishery scientists, and the conduct of management surveys, extension work, and research clearly related to problems of regional or national interest.

This first cooperative agreement was signed by Utah State University at Logan, the Utah State Game and Fish Department, and the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, through its Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. Similar units at other Universities are being considered.

Need for trained biologists to conduct sport fishery research is expanding rapidly at both State and Federal levels, and prospective fishery students have had little opportunity for either financial encouragement or counsel to help them in choosing a career in fisheries, the Department explained. The new Units are expected to help fill both these needs.

The agreement establishing the Utah Cooperative Fishery Unit provides for a 4-member coordinating committee composed of the Unit Leader, a representative of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Utah State University, and the Utah Fish and Game Department.

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will pay salary and travel expenses of the Unit Leader, provide and maintain motor vehicles, boats, motors, and other technical gear and equipment, and will arrange limited funds for graduate studies.

Utah State University will provide housing for the unit, storage space for equipment, and secretarial and clerical services. The Utah Game and Fish Department will assist the unit through financial contributions to the University, and by supporting projects in which it has a special interest. Such projects would be approved by the coordinating committee and would be in the form of assistantships, fellowships or research grants in fisheries, or for studies suitable for graduate theses. The study projects may cover a variety of subjects, including fishery management techniques, fish-pesticide relationships, aquatic ecology, and fish population dynamics. Under this new program, State and Federal agencies also would give seasonal employment to fishery students wherever possible.

The Cooperative Fishery Units will be similar to, but separate from, the Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit program of the Bureau. This program has operated since 1935 and has been effective in training wildlife biologists and in accumulating scientific information valuable in wildlife management. When located at the same university, as is the case with the Utah units, the two programs will be closely coordinated to share facilities and services in the interests of economy, public understanding, and assistance to fish and wildlife students and agencies, the Department said.

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